Under international law, a refugee is a person who has fled the country of his nationality to avoid persecution or the threat of persecution. The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees gives a precise definition of the term.

Interestingly, the Convention of the Organization of African Unity extends refugee status to all persons fleeing their country because of an armed conflict[1] or internal disturbances[2].

See Displaced persons[3]; Stateless persons[4]; Non-refoulement[5];

### OUTLINE

Chapter 8, III. Refugees and displaced persons in IHL[6]

### LEGAL SOURCE

nationals of Occupying Power in occupied territory

- GCIV, 70[7]
- PI, 73[8]
as protected persons

PI, 73 \(^{[8]}\) and 85/2 \(^{[9]}\)

in the enemy country

GCIV, 44 \(^{[10]}\)

**DOCUMENTS**

Organization of African Unity, Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa \(^{[11]}\)

Cartagena Declaration on Refugees \(^{[12]}\)

**CASES**

ICRC, Iran/Iraq Memoranda \(^{[13]}\)

ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Kupreskic et al. (Paras. 587-588) \(^{[14]}\)

Case Study, Armed Conflicts in the Great Lakes Region (Part 1., D.) \(^{[15]}\)

Canada, Ramirez v. Canada \(^{[16]}\)

Canada, Sivakumar v. Canada \(^{[17]}\)
Switzerland, The Niyontese Case (A., 10) [18]

The armed conflict in Syria [19]


Myanmar, Forced Population Movements [21]

ECJ, Aboubacar Diakité v. Commissaire général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides [22]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested readings:


**Further readings:**


**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/refugees

**Links**

